



**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CUBAN
ECONOMY (ASCE)**

Newsletter, Winter 2004

February 19, 2004

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Dear ASCE members:

The Board of Directors is pleased to inform that Volume 13 of *Cuba in Transition*, our annual volume of conference proceedings, as well as Monograph 3 are ready for distribution, thanks to the tireless efforts of Jorge Pérez-López. In addition we plan to include the proceedings and the three monographs in ASCE's web page soon.

The Board is busily engaged in the arrangements and details for the elections for a new president and board of directors to carry out the Association's work during the biennium 2004-2006, as well as in our Fourteenth Annual Meeting to be held at the [Wyndham Grand Bay Hotel](#) located in Coconut Grove, Miami, Florida, from Thursday August 5 to Saturday August 7, 2004. A *second* call for papers, discussants and session chairs, and the first call for student papers, as well as a message from Prof. Roger Betancourt the Chair of the Nominations Committee are included in the newsletter.

Our colleague Arnaldo Ramos Lauzarique wrote from the jail in Holguín an article on the "good" performance Cuban economy during 2003, that we are including as an addendum.

Please feel free to contact the Board about any other issue of relevance to ASCE. Your active and continuous participation is the best way to ensure the vitality of our organization.

Best regards,

Rolando H. Castañeda
Secretary of ASCE

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1. **Arturo Pino Navarro (1923-2003)**

IN MEMORIAM



Arturo Pino Navarro, an active member of ASCE, passed away in Miami on December 18, 2003. A graduate of the Universidad de la Habana in 1945 with the degree of Ingeniero Agrónomo, Arturo dedicated his professional life to public service, first in Cuba and later in the United States and Latin America. He started his professional career in Cuba in the Ministry of Agriculture and in 1951 became Administrator of the Contramaestre office of the newly established Banco de Fomento Agrícola e Industrial de Cuba (BANFAIC). In 1959 Arturo was appointed General Manager of BANFAIC and Vice-Minister of Agriculture. He left Cuba in 1960 and became a consultant to the Organization of American States (OAS) and a staff member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), where he worked for 25 years. He held several important positions at the IDB, including Chief of the Agricultural Planning Section, Chief of several Operations Divisions, and Representative of the IDB in Honduras and Costa Rica. He was also a consultant to the Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica (BCIE). Arturo was an active member of the Colegio de Ingenieros Agrónomos de Cuba en el Exilio and was instrumental in the preparation by that organization of a two-volume work titled *Desarrollo Agrícola de Cuba* (Miami, 1992 and 1994), to which he also contributed a chapter on agricultural credit in a Cuba of the future. He was a frequent speaker on topics related to agricultural development in Cuba and in Latin America. Those of us who knew him will remember him for his professionalism and integrity. May our esteemed colleague rest in peace. (Rodolfo A. Carrandi)

2. **Second Call for Papers, Discussants and Session Chairs for the Fourteenth Annual Meeting to be held at in Coconut Grove, Miami, on August 5-7, 2004**

ASCE will be holding its Fourteenth Annual meeting in Coconut Grove, Miami, Florida, on August 5 to 7, 2004. ASCE invites papers on subjects related to the Cuban economy and society, including: macroeconomics; banking and finance; agriculture and the sugar industry; tourism; social and political aspects of economic development; education; health; environmental policy; law and legal institutions; civil society; gender issues; governance; infrastructure; and civil-military relations.

The **main theme** for the coming year's meeting will be an assessment of "**Cuba: Ten Years after the Announcement of Economic Reforms**". These initiatives and reforms implemented in the early 1990's include depenalization of the use of foreign

currencies, creation of agricultural cooperatives, expansion of self-employment, stimulation of foreign investment, and so on. Papers dealing with these subjects will be particularly welcome.

Proposals for panels, roundtables or individual papers should be sent to **Jorge Pérez-López**, Chair, Program Committee, 5881 6th Street, Falls Church, VA 22041, jperezlopez@cox.net, or annual.conference@ascecuba.org as soon as possible, **with more detailed abstracts by March 1, 2004**. Persons interested in serving as discussants, session chairs or participants in roundtable discussion should also communicate with the Chair of the Program Committee.

Papers for the Annual Meeting should be distributed to the discussants and session chairs by June 30, 2004.

3. Annual Student Prize Competition. Call for Papers

The ASCE Student Prize Committee appreciates your assistance in promoting our annual **Jorge Pérez-López** Research Award student prize competition. This year, Dr. Enrique S. Pumar (William Paterson University) will chair the committee. As in years past, the committee accepts papers from graduate and undergraduate students who analyze the Cuban reality and its repercussions. One of the purposes of this prize is to promote the study of Cuba among students.

Anyone can nominate papers authored by university undergraduate and graduate students. The papers should address any topic related to Cuba's domestic issues, its foreign relations, or Cuba in comparative perspectives. Self nominations are also welcomed. All entries must be accompanied by a letter stating the name, mailing address, phone number, email address of the nominee, and a brief statement describing the merits of the nomination.

Graduate and undergraduate awards carry a prize of \$500 and \$250, an invitation to present the paper at the ASCE Annual Conference, a complementary membership in the association, and publication of the paper in the ASCE Proceedings.

At a minimum, papers are expected to outline a thesis statement support it by persuasive evidence and data. All nominations, ranging from 25-35 pages, must follow one of the standard writing style guides. Papers will be judged by a panel of scholars on the basis of relevance, originality, quality, contribution, and clarity of the exposition.

For further questions about this prize, please contact Enrique S. Pumar at students.papers@ascecuba.org. The newsletter presents a flyer of the call for student papers, as an addendum, that we thank all members to distribute it.

4. Financial Situation Report

As of January 27, 2004

Bank current account balance as of December 31st, 2003		\$15,276.10
January deposits to date		
Dues	\$140.00	
Reimbursement from González-Echevarría	<u>207.88</u>	
	Sub-total	<u>\$347.88</u>
	Total	15,623.98

Expenses

Sillero & Associates (accounting)	\$750.00	
Joaquín P. Pujol (postage)	<u>52.62</u>	
	Sub-total	<u>\$802.62</u>
Current Account balance as of January 27th, 2004		\$14,821.36
Savings Account balance as of January 27th, 2004		8,643.99
Net cash on hand as of January 27th, 2004		<u>\$23,465.35</u>

5. Elections 2004

Once again in 2004, members will elect a new president and board of directors to carry out the Association's work during the biennium 2004-2006. To facilitate the process and insure transparency and fairness, we are providing information and encourage members to become familiar with the rules governing the process that are available in our web page.

Members in good standing propose candidates to the Nominations Committee that validates their candidacy. By *April 13th*, the Association's Secretary then provides members with official ballots, instructions, and information about the candidates. Voted ballots will be received until *June 16th*. Votes are counted and certified by the Tellers Committee that renders an official report to the membership during the annual membership meeting conducted during the annual ASCE Conference in August. Notwithstanding this requirement, election

winners will be announced by e-mail immediately after the Tellers Committee completes its task. The new Board, however, will only assume their elected positions after the members annual business meeting.

The Board of Directors will consist of ten persons, not including the President and the immediate past President, who remains in the Board as Vice-President.

A- Nominations Committee. Dr. Roger Betancourt will serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Messieurs Carlos Montoulieu and Stuart Lippe will also serve as members of the Committee. The major role of the Committee is to receive and confirm nominations of candidates from members in good standing.

In 2002, the Board approved a change in the By-Laws concerning the number of supporting members required to validate a candidacy. Now, only five members are needed to submit a candidacy, as compared with the fifteen required in previous elections. Additionally, members can now submit nominations by letter, fax or email.

The Board has also decided to publicize the names of those members seeking support for their candidacies, if they so choose. Their names and a fifteen-line biographical summary will be sent to the membership so that those who want to support an individual can do so. This process will help compensate for the wide geographical dispersion of ASCE's Elections 2004.

The final date for submitting nominations shall be March 23. Soon thereafter, the Nominations Committee will issue a report of valid candidates to the Secretary.

B- Tellers Committee. Dr. Steve Escobar will serve as Chair of the Tellers Committee. Messieurs René Costales and Enrique Pumar will also be members of the Committee. The committee is responsible for receiving, certifying validity, and counting the completed ballots sent by the membership. Final date for counting the ballots will be June 24th. Once it has completed its task, the tellers committee will report election results to the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, will report the results to the membership on June 28th. Only members in good standing have the right to vote.

At the annual business meeting of the Association, called for during the Fourteenth August Conference, the Chairman of the Tellers Committee will present a formal election report to the membership. Once this requirement is fulfilled, the newly elected Board will then be installed in their new positions.

6. Message from Dr. Roger Betancourt, Chair of the Nominations Committee

Dear colleagues:

In my role as chair I would like to urge any member willing to work on behalf of the Association, but especially younger members who are interested, to express their willingness to participate in the Board to me via email. This participation entails attending the monthly meeting, via conference calls for people outside Washington, and to help on activities that come up at these meetings. There will be at least four new spots open right now due to our bylaws, which don't allow any elected official to have more than two consecutive terms as an elected Board member.

I will be emailing the current members who are eligible to be re-elected so that they can express explicitly via email their desire to be nominated for a second term. Please reply as soon as possible.

*Roger Betancourt
Chair Nominations Committee
Email: betancou@econ.umd.edu*

7. Web page and E-mail

Our website <http://www.ascecuba.org> and e-mail asce@ascecuba.org are completely operational thanks to skillful efforts by Miguel García-Gozalves from Casals & Associates. Miguel is also helping ASCE to redesign the website. Rolando H. Castañeda and Miguel continue to update the website at least once a month with information, news and events of interest to our members, more recently with our Annual Meeting in Coconut Groove, Miami, Florida. And the elections for the period 2004-2006.

The web pages have included updates on the Annual Student Prize Competition, Special Papers from Cuba, and ASCE's Financial Situation.

We recommend our all members to visit our website and provide us suggestions to improve it and to make it a more useful tool for our members and any visitor interested in our activities.